

Margaritifera margaritifera* (Eastern Pearlshell)*Priority 3 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Bivalvia* (Marine And Freshwater Molluscs)**Order:** *Unionoida* (Freshwater Mussels)**Family:** *Margaritiferidae* (Freshwater Mussels)**General comments:**

widely distributed and secure in ME; IUCN rating (Threatened) is for European populations, but AFS rating for US populations raised to Vulnerable in 2014 (formerly SC)

Species Conservation Range Maps for Eastern Pearlshell:Town Map: [Margaritifera margaritifera_Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Margaritifera margaritifera_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**IUCN Red List Status: **Endangered****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA****Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority: NA****High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA****Understudied rare taxa: NA****Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Professional Discretion:**

Current criteria ranked *Margaritifera margaritifera* as SGCN priority 2, however, species should be SGCN priority 3 based on professional discretion.

Justification:

SGCN rank triggered by IUCN rank which is totally driven by European status; species is relatively stable in Maine

Habitats Assigned to Eastern Pearlshell:

Formation Name	Freshwater Aquatic
Macrogroup Name	Rivers and Streams
Habitat System Name: Headwaters and Creeks	**Primary Habitat** Notes: <i>not a headwater stream specialist</i>
Habitat System Name: Large River	**Primary Habitat**
Habitat System Name: Medium River	**Primary Habitat**
Habitat System Name: Small River	**Primary Habitat**

Stressors Assigned to Eastern Pearlshell:

No Stressors Currently Assigned to Eastern Pearlshell or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Eastern Pearlshell:

No Species Specific Conservation Actions Currently Assigned to Eastern Pearlshell or other Priority 3 SGCN.

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

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Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.